

Serial No. 09/896,853
Art Unit: 1751

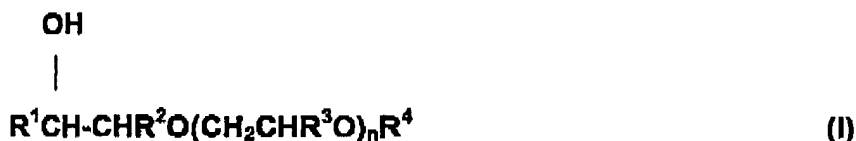
In the Claims:

Please enter the following amended claims in the application. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method for improving the cleaning performance of an aqueous, liquid, laundry detergent composition, the detergent composition comprising: water, anionic co-surfactants, ~~typical~~ auxiliaries and additives, ~~wherein~~ whereby, the cleaning performance is improved by adding to the detergent composition from about 1 to 35% by weight of a hydroxy mixed ether of the formula:

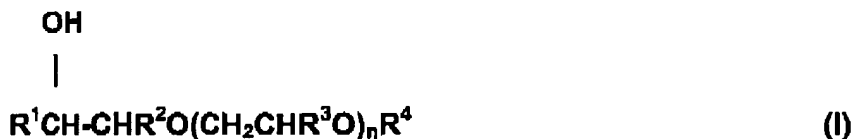


wherein R¹ is a linear or branched alkyl group containing 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R² is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R³ is hydrogen or methyl, R⁴ is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 1 to 22 carbon atoms, n is a number from 1 to 50 and, wherein, the total number of carbon atoms in R¹ and R² is at least 6 and, wherein, the percent by weight is based on the total weight of the detergent composition and the hydroxy mixed ether.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether comprises a compound of the formula:

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wherein R¹ is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R² is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R³ is hydrogen or methyl, R⁴ is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 6 to 18 carbon atoms and n is a number from 2 to 25, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents R¹ and R² is at least 6.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from 5 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 10 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 11, wherein, the co-surfactant comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants, nonionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, and zwitterionic surfactants.

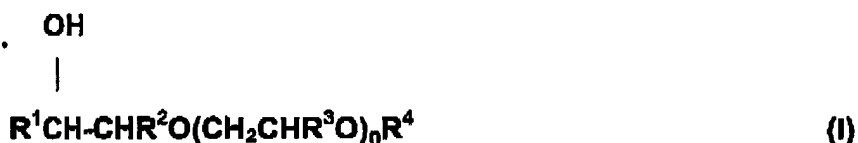
Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 15 wherein the co-surfactant comprises nonionic surfactants and anionic surfactants in an amount of from about 1 to 40% by combined weight, based on the weight of the composition.

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Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 11 wherein the liquid detergent composition comprises: at least one member selected from the group consisting of builders, polymers, redeposition inhibitors, optical brighteners, hydrotropes, perfumes and bleaching agents.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether comprises a hydroxy mixed ether of the formula:



wherein R¹ is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 10 to 16 carbon atoms, R² is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R³ is hydrogen or methyl, R⁴ is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 8 to 18 carbon atoms and n is a number from 1 to about 50, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents R¹ and R² is at least 6 12.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether (I) comprises from 1-10 propoxy groups.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 19 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from 1 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 17 wherein the composition further comprises at least one co-surfactant component selected from the group consisting of ~~anionic surfactants~~, nonionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, and

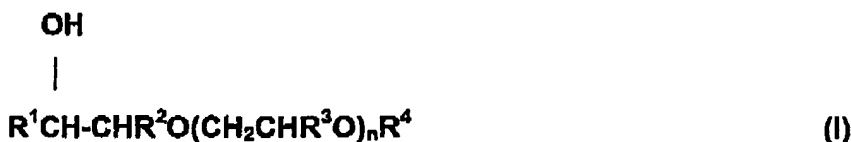
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zwitterionic surfactants.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21 wherein the co-surfactant component is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 40% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A process for cleaning textiles comprising contacting the textiles with an aqueous, liquid, laundry detergent composition containing: a hydroxy mixed ether of the formula:



wherein R¹ is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R² is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R³ is hydrogen or methyl, R⁴ is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 1 to 22 carbon atoms and n is a number from 1 to 50, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents R¹ and R² is at least 6, co-surfactants, additives and auxiliaries.